

PANDOSTO

The Triumph of Time.

VVHEREIN IS DISCOVERED
by a pleasant Hystorie, that although by the
meanes of sinister fortune Truth may bee concea-
led, yet by Time in spite of fortune it is most
manifestlie reuealed.

Pleasant for age to auoyd drowfie thoughts, profitable
for youth to eschue other wanton pastimes, and
bringing to both a desired content.

Temporis filia veritas.

By Robert Greene Maister of Arts in Cambridge.

Omne tulit punctum qui miscuit utile dulci.



Imprinted at London for I. B. dwelling at the signe of
the Byble, neare vnto the North doore of
Paules. 1595.



TO THE GENTLEMEN
Readers, health.

THe paultring Poet APHRA-
NIVS being blamed for troubling
the Emperour TRAIAN with so
many doting Poems : aduentured
notwithstanding, still to present him
with rude and homely verses, excu-
sing himselfe with the curtesie of the
Emperour, which did as friendly accept, as he fondly offe-
red. So Gentlemen, if anie condemne my rashnesse for
troubling your cares with so many vnlearned Pamphlets :
I will straight shroud my selfe vnder the shadow of your
courtesies, and with AFRANIVS, lay the blame on
you, as well for friendly reading them, as on my selfe for
fondly penning them : Hoping though fond curious, or
rather currish bacbiters, breath out slaunderour speeches :
yet the courteous Readers (whom I feare to offend)
will requite my trauaile, at the least with si-
lence : and in this hope I rest : wi-
shing you health and
happinesse.

ROBERT GREENE.



TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE
George Clifford Earle of Cumberland,
Robert Greene wisheth increase
of honour and vertue.

TH E Rascians (right honourable) when by long
gazing against the Sun, they become halfe blind,
reouer their sights by looking on the blacke
Loade stone. Vnicornes being gluttred with brou-
sing on rootes of Lycoras, sharpen their stomacks
with crushing bitter grasse.

Alexander vouchsafed as well to smile at the crooked picture
of Vulcan, as to wonder at the curious counterfeite of Venus.
The mind is sometimes delighted as much with small trifles as
with sumptuous triumphs, and as well pleased with hearing of
Pans homely fancies, as of Hercules renowned labours.

Sillie Baucis could not serue Iupiter in a siluer plate, but in
a wooden dish. All that honour Esculapius, decke not his
shrine with Iewels. Apollo giues Oracles as well to the poore
man for his mite, as to the rich man for his treasure. The stone
Hebites is not so much liked for the colour, as for vertue: and
pitts are not to be measured by the worth, but by the will. *Mi-
son* that vnskilfull Painter of Greece, aduentured to giue vnto
Darius the shield of Pallas, so roughly shadowed, as he smiled
more at the folly of the man, than at the imperfection of his
art. So I present vnto your honour the Triumph of time, so
rudely finished, as I feare your honour will rather frowne at
my impudencie, than laugh at my ignorancie: But I hope my
willing minde shall excuse my slender skill, and your honours
cortisie shadow my rashnesse.

The Epistle Dedicatorie.

They which feare the biting of vipers do carry in their hands the plumes of a Phoenix. Phydias drewe Vulcan sitting in a chaire of Iuorie. Cæsars Crow durst neuer cry, *Aue*, but when she was peaked on the Capitoll. And I seeke to shrowd this imperfect Pamphlet vnder your honours patronage, doubting the dint of such inuenomed vipers, as seeke with their slanderous reproches to carpe at all, beeing oftentimes, most vnlearned of all: and assure my selfe, that your honours renowned valour, and vertuous disposition shall bee a sufficient defence to protect me from the poysoned tongues of such scorning Sy-cophants, hoping, that as Iupiter vouchsafed to lodge in Philemons thatched cottage: and Philip of Macedon, to take a bunch of grapes of a countrey peasant: so I hope your honour, measuring my worke by my will, & waighing more the minde than the matter, will, when you haue cast a glaunce at this toy, with Minerua, vnder your golden Target couer a deformed Owle. And in this hope I rest, wishing vnto you, and the vertuous Countesse your wife: such happie successe as your honours can desire, or imagine.

Your Lordships most dutifullly to command: Robert Greene.



¶ The Historie of Dorastus and Fawnia



Among all the passions wherewith humane mindes are perplexed, there is none that so galleth with restlesse despite as that infectious soze of ielousy: for all other griefes are either to bee appeased with sensible perswasions, to be cured with wholsome counsell, to be relieved in want, or by tract of time to be worne out (Ielousie only excepted) which is sawced with suspicious doubts, and pinching mistrust, that whoso seekes by friendly counsaile to rase out this bellish passion, it forthwith suspecteth that he giueth this aduise to couer his owne guiltinesse. Yea, whoso is payned with this restlesse torment, doubteth all, distrusteth himselfe, is alwayes frozen with feare, & fixed with suspicion, hauing that wherin consistes al his ioy, to be the breeder of his misery. Yea it is such a heauy enemy to that holy estate of matrimony, sowing betweene the married couples such deadly seedes of secret hatred, as loue being once rased out by spitefull distrust, there oft ensueth bloudy reuenge, as this ensuing Historie manifestly prooueth: wherein Pandosto (furiously incensed by causelesse ielousie) procured the death of his most louing and loyall wife, and his owne endlesse sorrow and misery.

In the Countrey of Bohemia there raigned a king called Pandosto, whose fortunate successe in warres against his foes, & bountifull curtesie towards his friends in peace, made him to be greatly feared & loued of all men. This Pandosto had to wife a Lady called Bellaria, by birth royall, learned by education, faire by nature, by vertues famous, so that it was hard to iudge whether her beauty, fortune, or vertue, was the greatest

The Historie of

greatest commendations. These two linked together in perfect loue, led their liues with such fortunate content, that their subiectes greatly reioyced to see their quiet disposition. They had not bin married long, but fortune (willing to increase their happines) lent them a sonne, so adorned with the gifts of nature, as the perfection of the child greatly augmented the loue of the parents, & the ioy of their commons: in so much that the Bohemians, to shew their inward ioyes by outward actions, made bonefires and triumphes throughout all the kingdome, appointing iustes and turneyes for the honoz of their young Prince: whether reioyced not only his Nobles, but also diuers kings & princes which were his neighbours, willing to shew their friendship they ought to Pandosto, & to win fame & glory by their prowesse & valour. Pandosto, whose mind was fraught with princely liberalitie, entertained þ kings, princes & noblemen with such submisle curtesie, & magnificall bounty, that they all saw how willing hee was to gratifie their good willes, making a generall feast for his subiects which continued by the space of xx. daies: all which time the iusts & turnies were kept to the great content both of the Lords and Ladies there present. This solemne triumph being once ended, the assembly taking their leaue of Pandosto & Bellaria: the young sonne (who was called Garinter) was nursed by in the house, to the great ioy and content of the parents. Fortune enuious of such happy successe, willing to shew some signe of her incōstancy, turned hir wheele, & darkned their bright sun of prosperity, w the misty clouds of mishap & misery. For it so hapned þ Egistus king of Sycilia, who in his youth had bin brought by with Pandosto, desirous to shew that neither tract of time, nor distance of place could diminish their former friendship, prouided a nauy of ships, and sailed into Bohemia to visit his old friend and companion, who hearing of his arriuall, went himself in person, & his wife Bellaria accompanied with a great traine of lords and ladies, to meet Egistus: and espying him, alighted from his horse, embraced him very louingly, protesting, that nothing in the world could haue hapned more acceptable to him than his coming, wishing his wife to welcome his old friend and acquaintance, who (to shew how she liked him

Dorastus and Fawnia.

him whom her husband loued) intertayned him with such familiar curtesie, as Egistus perceiued himselfe to be very well welcome. After they had thus saluted & embraced ech other, they mounted againe on horse backe, & rode toward the Citie, deuising and recounting, how being childzen they had passed their youth in friendly pastimes: where, by the meanes of the Citizens, Egistus was receiued with triumphes & shewes in such sort, that he maruelled how on so small a warning they could make such preparation. Passing the streets thus with such rare sights, they rode on to the Pallace, where Pandosto entertained Egistus & his Sycilians with such banqueting and sumptuous cheare, so royally, as they had all cause to commend his Princely liberalitie, yea, the very basest slaue that was knowne to come from Sycilia was vled with such curtesie, that Egistus might easily perceiue how both he & his were honoured for his friends sake. Bellaria (who in her time was the flower of curtesie) willing to shew how vnfaignedly she loued her husband by his friends intertainement, vled him likewise so familiarly, that her countenance betrayed how her mind was affected towards him: oftentimes coming her selfe into his bed chamber, to see if nothing shuld be amisse to mislike him. This honest familiaritie increased daily more and more betwixt them: for Bellaria noting in Egistus a Princely & bountifull minde adorned with sundry and excellent qualities, and Egistus finding in her a vertuous & curteous dispositiō, there grew such a secret vnitng of there affections, that the one could not well be without the cōpany of the other: in so much that when Pandosto was busied with such vrgent affairs, that he could not be present with his friend Egistus, Bellaria would walke with him into the garden, where they two in priuat & pleasant deuises would passe away the time to both their cōtents. This custome still continuing betwixt them, a certaine melancholy passion entering the minde of Pandosto, draue him into sundry & doubtfull thoughts. First, he called to mind the beauty of his wife Bellaria, the comelines & brauerie of his friend Egistus, thinking that loue was aboue all lawes, and therefore to be stayed with no law: that it was hard to put fier and flaxe together without burning: that their open pleasures might breede
his

The Historie of

his secret displeasures. He considereth with himselfe that Egistus was a man, & must needs loue: y his wife was a woman, & therefore subiect to loue, and that where fancy forced, friendship was of no force. These & such like doubtful thoughts a long time smothering in his stomach, began at last to kindle in his mind a secret mistrust, which increased by suspicion, grew at last to a flaming ielousie, that so tormented him as he could take no rest. He then began to measure all their actions & misconstrue of their too private familiarity, iudging that it was not for honest affection, but for disorderly fancy, so as he began to watch them more narrowly, to see if he could get any true or certain prooffe to confirm his doubtfull suspicion. While thus he noted their looks & gestures, & suspected their thoughts and meanings, they two seely soules who doubted nothing of this his treacherous intent, frequented daily each others company, which diuine him into such a frantike passion, that he began to beare a secret hate to Egistus, & a lowering countenance to Bel-laria. who maruelling at such vnaccustomed frowns, began to cast beyond the moone, and to enter into sundry thoughts, which way she should offend her husband: but finding in herself a cleare conscience, ceased to muse, till such time as she might find fit opportunity to demand the cause of his dumps. In the meane time Pandosto's mind was so far charged with ielousie, that he no longer doubted, but was assured (as he thought) that his friend Egistus had entred a wrong point in his tables, & so had playd him false play: wherupon desirous to reuenge so great an iniury, he thought best to dissemble the grudge with a faire & friendly countenance: & so vnder the shape of a friend, to shew him the trick of a foe. Deuising with himselfe a long time how he might best put away Egistus without suspicion of trecherous murder, concluded at last to poison him, which opinion pleasing his humor, he became resolute in his determination, & the better to bring the matter to passe, he called to him his cup-bearer, with whom in secret he brake the matter: promising to him for performance thereof, to giue him 1000. crowns of yearely reuenues: his cup-bearer either being of a good conscience, or willing for fashion sake, to deny such a bloody request, began with great reasons to perswade Pandosto from

Dorastus and Fawnia.

from his determinate mischief: shewing him what an offence murder was to y^e Gods: how such unnatural actions did more displease the heanens, thā men: & that causeles crueltie did seldom or neuer escape without reuenge: he laid befoze his face, that Egistus was his friend, a king, & one y^e was come into his kingdome, to confirme a league of perpetuall amitie betwixt them, that he had & did shew him a most friendly countenance, how Egistus was not onely honoured of his owne people by obedience, but also loued of the Bohemians for his curtesie. And that if now he should without any iust or manifest cause, poison him, it would not only be a great dishonour to his Maiesty, and a meanes to sow perpetuall enmitie betwene the Sycilians & the Bohemians, but also his own subjects would repine at such trecherous crueltie. These & such like perswasions of Franion (for so was his cupbearer called) could no whit preuaile to dissuade him from his deuillish enterprise, but remaining resolute in his determination, his furie so fiered with rage, as it could not be appeased with reason: he began with bitter tauntes to take vp his man, & to lay befoze him two baits: preferment, & death: saying that if he would poison Egistus, he should aduāce him to high dignities: if hee refused to doe it of an obstinate minde, no torture should be to great to requite his disobedience. Franion seeing that to perswade Pandosto any more, was but to strue against the streame: consented as soone as oportunitie would giue him leaue to dispatch Egistus, wherewith Pandosto remained somewhat satisfied, hoping now hee shoulde bee fully reuenged of such mistrusted iniuries, intending also as soone as Egistus was dead, to giue his wife a sop of the same sawce, and so bee rid of those which were the cause of his restles sorrowe. While thus he liued in this hope, Franion being secret in his chamber, began to meditate with himselfe in these termes.

A Franion, treason is loued of many, but the traitor hated of all: vniust offences may for a time escape without danger, but neuer without reuenge, thou art seruant to a king, and must obey at commaund: yet Franion, against law & conscience, it is not good to resist a tyrant with armes, nor to please an vniust king with obedience. What shalt thou doe? Folly refused

The Historie of

gold, & frenche preferment, wisdome seeketh after dignity, and counsell looketh for gaine. Egistus is a stranger, to thee, & Pandosto thy soueraigne: thou haste litle cause to respect the one, & oughtest to haue great care to obey the other. Thinke this Franion, that a pound of gold is worth a tunne of lead, great gifts are litle Gods, & preferment to a meane man, is a whetstone to courage: there is nothing sweeter than promotion, nor lighter then report: care not then though most count thee a traitor, so all call thee rich. Dignity (Franion) aduanceth thy posterity, and euill report can hurt but thy selfe. Know this, where Eagles build, Faulcons may pray: where Lyons haunt, Foxes may steale. Kings are knowen to commaunde, seruautes are blamelesse to consent: feare not thou then to list at Egistus. Pandosto shall beare the burthen. Yea but Franion, conscience is a worme that euer biteth, but neuer ceaseth: that which is rubbed with the stone Galadites will neuer be hot. Flesh dipped in the sea AEgeum, will neuer be swete: the hearbe Tragion being once bit with an Aspis neuer groweth, and conscience once stained with innocent blond, is alwaies tied to a guiltie remorse. Prefer thy content befoze riches, and a cleare minde befoze dignity: so being poore thou shalt haue rich peace, or els rich, thou shalt enioy disquiet.

FRanion hauing mittered out these or such like wordes, seeing either he must dye with a cleare minde, or liue with a spotted conscience: he was so combered with diuers cogitations that he could take no rest: vntill at last he determined to breake the matter to Egistus, but fearing that the king should either suspect or heare of such matters, hee concealed the deuise till opportunity would permit him to reueale it. Lingring thus in doubtfull feare, in an euening he went to Egistus lodging, and desirous to breake with him of certaine affaires that touched the king, after all were commaunded out of the chamber. Franion made manifest the whole conspiracie, which Pandosto had deuised against him, desiring Egistus not to accompt him a traitor for bewraying his maisters counsell, but to thinke that hee did it for conscience, hoping that although his maister inflamed with rage, or incensed by some sinister reportes or slanderous speeches,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

speeches, had imagined such causelesse mischief: yet when time should pacifie his anger, & trie those tale bearers but flattering Parasites, then hee would count him as a faithfull seruant, that with such care had kept his masters credit. Egistus had not fully heard Franion tell forth his tale, but a quaking feare possessed all his limmes, thinking that there was some treason wrought, & that Franion did but shaddow his craft with these false colours: wherefore he began to waile in choler, and saide that he doubted not Pandosto, sith he was his friend, and there had neuer as yet bene any breach of amity: he had not sought to invade his landes, to conspire with his enemies, to disswade his subiectes from their allegiance: but in word and thought he rested his at all times: he knew not therefore any cause that should moue Pandosto to seeke his death, but suspected it to bee a compacted knauery of the Bohemians, to bring the king and him at oddes. Franion staying him in the midst of his talke, tolde him that to dally with Princes was with the swannes to sing against their death, and that if the Bohemians had intended any such secret mischief, it might haue bene better brought to passe then by reuealing the conspiracy: therefore his Maiestie did ill to misconstrue of his good meaning, sith his intent was to hinder treason, not to become a traitor and to confirme his premises, if it please his Maiesty to flee into Sycilia for the safegarde of his life, hee would goe with him: and if then hee found not such a practise to bee pretended, let his imagined treachery be repayed with most monstrous tormentes. Egistus hearing the solempne protestation of Franion: began to consider, that in loue and kingdomes, neither faith, nor lawe is to bee respected: doubting that Pandosto thought by his death to destroy his men, and with speedie warre to invade Sycilia: these and such doubtles throughe weighed, hee gaue great thanks to Franion, promising if he might with life returne to Syracuse, that he would create him a Duke in Sycilia: crauing his counsell howe hee might escape out of the countrey. Franion, who hauing some small skill in Nauigation, was well acquainted with the Portes and Hauens, and knew euery daunger in the Sea, ioyning in counsell with the Master of Egistus shipp, rigged all their

B 2

ships,

The Historie of

ships, and setting them a float let them lie at anker, to be in the more readinesse when time and wind shoulde serue. Fortune although blind, yet by chance fauoring this iust cause, sent them within 5. daies a good gale of winde, which Franion seeing fit for their purpose, to put Pandosto out of suspitiō, y night befoze they shoulde saile, he went to him & promised, that the next daie he would put the deuise in practise. For he had got such a forcible poison as the very smell thereof shoulde procure sodaine death. Pandosto was ioyfull to heare this good newes & thought euery houre a day till he might be glutted with bloudy reuenge. but his suit had but il successe: for Egistus fearing that delay might breed danger, and willing that the grasse shoulde not be cut fro vnder his fete, taking bagge and baggage with the helpe of Franion, conueied himselfe and his men out of a posterne gate of the city so secretly, & speedely, that without any suspicion they got to the sea shoare, where, with many a bitter curse taking their leaue of Bohemia, they went aboard, weighing their Ancres: & hoisting saile, they passed as fast as winde and sea would permit towards Sycilia; Egistus being a ioyful man, that he had safely past such trecherous perils. But as they were quietly floating on the sea, so Pandosto & his Citizens were in an uproare: for seeing that the Sycilians without taking their leaue were fled away by night, the Bohemians feared some treason, & the king; thought that without question his suspicion was true, seeing his cupbearer had bewayed the summe of his secret presence: whereupon hee began to imagine, that Franion and his wife Bellaria had conspired with Egistus, and that the seruent affection shee beare him, was the onely meanes of his secret departure, in so much that incensed with rage, he commaunded that his wife shoulde bee carried to straight prison, vntil they heard further of his pleasure. The garde vnwilling to lay their hands on such a vertuous personne, and yet fearing the kings fury, went very sorrowfully to fulfill their charge, coming to the Queenes lodging, they found her playing with her young sonne Garinter, vnto whom with teares doing the message: Bellaria astonished at such a hard censure, and finding her cleare conscience a sure aduocate to pleade in her case, went to the prison most willingly: where with sighes and teares, shee
past

Dorastus and Fawnia.

pass away the time till shee might come to her triall.

But Pandosto, whose reason was surpized with rage, and whose unbidded folly was incensed with fury: seeing Franion had betraied his secrets, and that Egistus might well be railed on, but not reneged: determined to weeke all his wrath on poore Bellaria, he therefore caused a generall proclamation to be made through all his Realme, that the Quene & Egistus had by the helpe of Franion not only committed most incestuous adulterie, but also had conspired the Kings death: Whereupon the Traitor Franion was fled away with Egistus, and Bellaria was most iustly imprisoned. This Proclamation beeing once blazed through the countrey, although the vertuous disposition of the Quene did halfe discredit the contents: yet the sodaine & speedy passage of Egistus, and the secret departure of Franion induced them (the circumstances thoroughly considered) to thinke that both the Proclamation was true, and the King greatly injured: yet they pitied her case, as sorrowfull that so good a Lady should be crossed with such aduerse Fortune. But the King, whose restless rage would admit no pity, thought that although he might sufficiently requite his wiues falshood with the bitter plague of pinching penury, yet his minde should neuer be gluffed with reuenge, till hee might haue fit time and opportunity to repay the treachery Egistus with a satall iniurie. But a curst Cow hath oft times shorthe hornes, and a willing mind, but a weake arme: for Pandosto although he felt; that reuenge was a spur to warre, and that enuie alwaies proffereth Steele, yet he saw, that Egistus was not onely of great puissance, and prowesse to withstand him, but had also many Kings of his alliance to aide him, if neede should serue: for he married to the Emperours daughter of Russia. These and such like considerations something daunted Pandosto his courage, so, that he was content rather to put by a manifest iniury with peace, than hunt after reuenge dishonour and losse: determining since Egistus had escaped scotfree, that Bellaria should pay for all at an unreasonable price.

Remayning thus resolute in his determination, Bellaria continuing still in prison, and hearing the contents of the Proclamation, knowing that her minde was neuer touched with

The Historie of

such affection, no; that Egistus had euer offered her such discourtesie, woulde gladly haue come to her answere, that both she might haue knowne her vniust accusers, and cleared her selfe of that guiltlesse crime.

But Pandosto was so enflamed with rage, and infected with Zealousie as he would not vouchsafe to heare her no; admit any iust excuse, so that she was faine to make a vertue of her neede, and with patience to beare these heauy iniuries. As thus she lay crossed with calamities (a great cause to increase her griefe) she found her selfe quicke with childe: which as soon as she felt stir in her body, she burst forth into bitter teares, exclaiming against fortune in these teares.

A Las Bellaria, how infortunate art thou because so fortunate, better hadst thou borne borne a begger than a Prince: so shouldst thou haue bridled Fortune with want, where now she sporteth her selfe with thy plenty. Ah happy life where poore thoughtes, and meane desires liue in secure content, not fearing Fortune because too low. For fortune, thou seest now Bellaria, that care is a companion to hono;, not to povertie, that high Ceders are frusht with tempests, when low shrubs are not toucht with the wind: p;ecious Diamonds are cut with the file, when despised peables lie safe in the sand: Delphos is sought to by Princes, not beggers: and Fortunes altars smoke with Kings presents, not with poore mens giftes. Happie are such Bellaria, that curse Fortune for contempt, not feare, and may wish they were, not so; row they haue borne. Thou art a Princeesse, Bellaria, and yet a prisoner, borne to the one by discontent, assigned to the other by despite, accused without cause, and therefore oughtest to die without care: for patience is a shield against Fortune, and a guiltlesse minde yeeldeth not to so; row. Ah, but infamie galleth vnto death, and liueth after death: Report is plumed with times feathers, and Enuie oftentimes soundeth Fames trumpet: thy suspected adultery shall flie in the aire, and thy knowne vertues shall lie hid in the earth: one spoale staineth a whole face, and what is once spotted with Infamy can hardly be worne out with time. Die then Bellaria, Bellaria die: for if the Gods should say thou art guiltlesse, yet

Dorastus and Fawnia.

yet enuie would heare the Gods, but neuer beleue the Gods. Ah haplesse wretch, cease these tearmes: desperat thoughts are fit for them that feare shame, not for such as hope for credite. Pandosto hath darkened thy fame, but shall neuer discredit thy vertues. Suspicion may enter a false action, but proofe shall neuer put in his plea: care not then for enuie, sith report hath a blister on her tongue: & let sorrow bite them which offende, not touch thee that are faultlesse. But alas poore soule, howe canst thou but sorrow? Thou art with child, and by him that in stead of kind pitie pincheth thee in cold prison. And with that such gasping sighes so stopped her breath, that shee could not utter any mo wordes, but wringing her hands, and gushing forth streames of teares, shee passed away the time with bitter complaints.

The Taylor pitying these her heauie passions, thinking that if the king knew she were with childe, he would somewhat appease his furie, & release her from prison, went in all haste, and certified Pandosto what the effect of Bellarias complaint was: who no sooner heard the Taylour say she was with child, but as one possessed with a phrensie, he rose vp in a rage, swearing y she and the bastard vnat she was withall, should die, if the gods themselves said no: thinking that surely by computation of time, that Egistus & not he, was father to the child. This suspicious thought galled a fresh this halfe healed soze, insomuch as hee could take no rest, vntill he might mitigate his choler w a iust reuenge, which happened presently after. For Bellaria was brought to bed of a faire & beautifull daughter, which no sooner Pandosto heard, but he determined that both Bellaria and the yong infant should be burnt with fire. His Nobles hearing of the kings cruell sentence, sought by perswasions to diuert him from this bloody determination: laying before his face the innocency of the child, and the vertuous disposition of his wife, how she had continually loued and honoured him so tenderly, that without due proofe he could not, nor ought not to appeach her of that crime. And if she had faulted, yet it were more honourable to pardon with mercie, than to punish with extremity, & more kingly, to be commended of pitie, than accused of rigour. And as
for

The Historie of

for the child, if he should punish it for the mothers offence, it were to strue against nature and iustice: and that vnnaturall actions doe more offend the Gods then men: how causelesse crueltie, nor innocent blood neuer escapes without reuenge. These and such like reasons could not appease his rage, but he rested resolute in this, that Bellaria being an adulteresse, the child was a bastard, and he would not suffer that such an infamous brat should call him father. Yet at last (seeing his noble men were importunate vpon him) he was content to spare the childs life, and yet to put it to a wooser death. For he found out this deuise that seeing (as he thought) it came by Fortune, so he would commit it to the charge of Fortune, and therefore he caused a little cock-boat to be prouided, wherein he meant to put the babe, and then send it to the mercie of the seas, and the destinies. From this his Deeres in no wise could perswade him, but that he sent presently two of his Gard to fetch the child, who being come to the prison, and with weeping teares recounting their maisters message: Bellaria no sooner heard the rigorous resolution of her mercilesse husband, but shee fell downe in a sound, so that all thought she had bin dead, yet at last being come to her selfe, she cried and scriched out in this wise.

ALas swete infortunate babe, scarce bozne before enuied by fortune: would the day of thy birth had bene the tearme of thy life, then shouldest thou haue made an ende to care, and preuented thy fathers rigor. Thy faultes cannot yet deserue such hatefull reuenge, thy daies are too shorte for so sharpe a doome, but thy vntimely death must pay thy mothers debtes, and her guiltlesse crime must be thy gally curse. And shalt thou swete babe be committed to fortune? When thou art already spited by fortune: Shall the seas bee thy harbour, and the hard boate thy cradle? Shall thy tender mouth insteede of swete kisses, be nipped with bitter stormes? Shalt thou haue the whistling windes for thy Lullabie, and the salt sea some in steede of swete milke? Alas, what destinies would assigne such hard hap? What father would be so cruell? Or what gods will not reuenge such rigor? Let me kisse thy lips (swete infant) and wet thy tender cheekes with my teares, and put this chaine about

Dorastus and Fawnia.

about thy little necke, that if fortune saue thee, it may help to succour thee. Thus, since thou must go to surge in the gallful seas, with a sorrowfull kisse I bid thee farewell, and I pray the gods thou mayest farewell. Such, and so great was her griefe, that her vitall spirits being suppressed with sorrow, she fell againe downe in a traunce, hauing her senses so sorted with care, that after she was reuiued, yet she lost her memorie, and lay for a great time without moouing as one in a traunce. The gard left her in this perplexitie, and carried the child to the king, who quite deuoyde of pity, commanded that without delay it should be put into the boate, hauing neither saile nor other to guide it, and so to be caried into the midst of the sea, and there left to the winde and waue as the destinies please to appoint. The very shipmen seeing the sweet countenance of the yong babe, began to accuse the king of rigor, & to pity the childs hard fortune: but feare constrained them to that which their nature did abhorre: so that they placed it in one of the ends of the boat, and with a few green bows made a homely cabin to shrowd it as they could from wind & weather: hauing thus trimmed the boat they tied it to a ship, and so haled it into the maine sea, and then cut insunder the corde, which they had no sooner done, but there arose a mighty tempest, which tossed the little boat so vehemently in the waues, that the ship men thought it could not continue long without sinking, yea the storme grew so great, that with much labour and peril they got to the shore. But leauing the child to her fortunes. Againe to Pandosto, who not yet glutted with sufficient reuenge, deuised which way he should best increase his wifes calamity. But first assembling his Nobles and Counsellours, he called her for the more reproch into open Court, where it was objected against her, that she had committed adulterie with Egistus, and conspired with Franion to poison Pandosto her husband, but their pretence being partly spied, she counselled them to flee away by night for their better safteie. Bellaria, who standing like a prisoner at the bar, feeling in her selfe a cleare conscience to withstand her false accusers: seeing that no lesse than death could pacifie her husbands wrath, waxed bold, & desired that she might haue lawe

The Historie of

and Justice, for mercy she neither craued nor hoped, and that those periured wretches, which had falsly accused her to the king, might be brought before her face, to giue in euidence. Pandosto, whose rage and ielousie was such, as no reason, nor equitie could appease, told her, that for her accusers they, were of such credit, as their wordes were sufficient witness, and that the sodaine and secret flight of Egistus and Franion confirmed that which they had confessed: and as for her, it was her part to deny such a monstrous crime, and to bee impudent in so swearing the fact, since she had past all shame in committing the fault: but her stale countenance should stand for no coyne, for as the bastard which she bare was serued, so she should with some cruel death be requited. Bellaria no whit dismayed with this rough reply, told her husband Pandosto that he spake vpon choler, & not conscience: for her vertuous life had bin euer such, as no spot of suspicion could euer stain. And if she had borne a frendly countenance to Egistus, it was in respect he was his friend, & not for any lusting affection: therfore if she were condemned without any further prooffe, it was rigor, and not law. The noblemen which sate in iudgement, said that Bellaria spake reason, and intreated the king that the accusers might be openly examined, and swozne, if then the euidence were such, as the Jury might find her guilty (for seeing she was a prince) shee ought to be tried by her peeres, then let her haue such punishment as the extremity of the law will assigne to such malefactors. The king presently made answer, that in this case he might, and would dispence with the law: and that the Jury being once panned, they should take his word for sufficient euidence, otherwise he would make the proudest of them repent it. The noblemen seeing the king in choler, were all wist, but Bellaria whose life the hung in the balance, fearing more perpetuall infamy, than momentary death, told the king, if his fury might stand for a Lawe, that it were vaine to haue the Jury yeeld their verdict, & therfore she fell downe vpon her knees, and desired the king that for the loue he bare to his yong sonne Garinter, whome shee brought into the world, that he would graunt her a request, the which was this, that it would please his maiesty to send for of his

Dorastus and Fawnia.

his noble men whom hee best trusted, to the Ile of Delphos, there to enquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whether she had committed adulterie with Egistus, or conspired to poison him with Franion: and if the God Apollo, who by his diuine essence knew all secrets, gaue answer that shee was guilty, shee were content to suffer any torment, were it neuer so terrible. The request was so reasonable, that Pandosto could not for shame deny it, vntlesse hee would be counted of all his subiectes more wilfull then wise, he therefore agreed, that with as much speede as might be there should be certaine Embassadors dispatched to the Ile of Delphos: and in the means season he commaunded that his wife should be kept in close prison. Bellaria hauing obtained this grant, was now more carefull for her little babe that floated on the seas, then sorrowfull for her owne mishap. For of that she doubted: of her selfe she was assured, knowing if Apollo should giue Oracle according to the thoughts of the hart, yet the sentence should go on her side, such was the cleerenes of her mind in this case. But Pandosto (whose suspicious head still remained in one song) chose out six of his Nobilitie, whom he knew were scarce indifferent men in the Queens behalfe, and providing all things fit for their iourney, sent them to Delphos: they willing to fulfill the kings command, & desirous to see the situation and custome of the Island, dispatched their affaires with as much speed as might be, & embarked themselves to the voyage, which (the wind and weather seruing fit for their purpose) was soone ended. For within three weekes they arrived at Delphos, where they were no sooner set on lande, but with great deuotion they went to the Temple of Apollo, and there offering sacrifice to the God, and gifts to the Priest, as the custome was, they humbly craved an answer of their demaund: they had not long kneeled at the Altar, but Apollo with a loud voice said: Bohetmians, what you find behind the Altar take, and depart. They forthwith obeying the Oracle found a scroule of parchment, wherein was written these words in letters of gold.

The Oracle.

Suspition is no prooffe: Iealousie is an vnequall Iudge:
Bellaria is chaste: Egistus blameles: Franion a true

The Historie of
subiect: Pandosto trecherous: his babe an innocent,
and the king shal liue without an heire: if that which
is lost be not found.

As soone as they had taken out this scrol, the priest of the
god commaunded them that they should not presume to
reade it, before they came in the presence of Pandosto: vn-
lesse they would incurre the displeasure of Apollo. The Bo-
hemian lords carefully obeying his commaund, taking their
leau of the priest, with great reuerence departed out of the
temple, and went to their ships, and as soone as wind would
permit them, sailed toward Bohemia. whither in short time
they safely arriued, & with great triumph issuing out of their
ships, went to the kings pallace, whom they found in his cha-
ber accompanied with other noble men: Pandosto no soo-
ner saw them, but with a merry countenance hee welcomed
them home, asking what newes: they tolde his maiestie that
they had receiued an answer of the god witten in a scroll, but
with this charge, that they should not reade the contents be-
fore they came in the presence of the king, and with that they
deliuered him the parchment: but his noblemen intreated him
that sith therein was contained either the safety of his wiues
life and honesty, or her death and perpetuall infamy, that hee
would haue his nobles & commons assembled in the iudgement
hall, where the queene brought in as a prisoner, should heare
the contents: if she were found guilty by the oracle of the god,
then al should haue cause to thinke his rigor proceeded of due
desert: if her grace were found faultlesse, then she should bee
cleered before al, sith she had bin accused openly. This pleased
the king so, that he appointed the day, & assembled al his lords
and commons, & caused the Queene to be brought in before
the iudgement seate, commaunding that the inditement should
be read, wherein she was accused of adulterie with Egistus, &
of conspiracie with Franion: Bellaria hearing the contents,
was no whit astonished, but made this cheerefull answer.

If the diuine powers be priuy to humane actions (as no
doubt they are) I hope my patiēce shal make fortune blush,
and

Dorastus and Fawnia.

and my vnspotted life shall staine spitefully discredit. For, althogh lying report hath sought to appeach mine honoz, and suspicion hath intended to soile my credite with infamy: yet where vertue keepeth the fort, report and suspicion may assault, but neuer sacke: how I haue led my life before Egistus comming, I appeale Pandosto to the gods, and to thy conscience. What hath passed between him and me, the gods only know, & I hope will presently reueale: that I loued Egistus I can not deny that I honored him I shame not to confesse: to the one I was forced by his vertues: to the other for his dignities. But as touching lasciuious lust, I say Egistus is honest, and hope my selfe to be found without spot: for Franion, I can neyther accuse him, nor excuse him: for I was not priuy to his departure, and that this is true which I haue here rehearsed, I referre my selfe to the diuine oracle.

Bellaria had no sooner sayd, but the king commanded that one of his Dukes should reade the contents of the scroll: which after the commons had heard, they gaue a great shout, reioicing & clapping their hands that the Queene was cleere of that false accusation: but the king whose conscience was a witnesse against him of his witleffe fury, and false suspected ielousie, was so ashamed of his rash folly, that he intreated his nobles to perswade Bellaria to forgiue, and forget these iniuries: promising not onely to shew himselfe a loyall & louing husband, but also to reconcile himselfe to Egistus & Franion: reuealing then before them all the cause of their secret flight, & how trecherously he thought to haue practized his death, if y good mind of his cupbearer had not preuented his purpose. As thus he was relating the whole matter, there was worde brought him that his yong son Garinter was sodainly dead, which newes so soone as Bellaria heard, surcharged before which extreme ioy, & now suppressed with heauy sorrow, her vitall spirites were so stopped, that she fell downe presently dead, & could neuer be reuiued. This sodaine sight so appalled the kings senses, that he sunke from his seat in a swoone, so as he was faine to be caried by his nobles to his pallace, where he lay by the space of thre dayes without speach: his

The Historie of

common were as men in dispaire, so diuersly distressed: there was nothing but mourning & lamentatiō to be heard throughout all Bohemia: their young Prince dead, their vertuous Queene bereaued of her life, & their king & soueraigne in great hazard: this tragicall discourse of fortune so daunted them, as they went like shadowes, not men: yet somewhat to comforte their heauy heartes, they heard that Pandosto was come to himselfe, and had recovered his speech, who as in fury brayed out these bitter speeches.

O Miserable Pandosto, what surer witnes then conscience? What thoughtes more sower then suspition? What plague more bad then Ielousie? Unnatural actions offend the Gods, more than men, and causelesse cruelty neuer escapes without reuenge: I haue committed such a bloudy fact, as repent I may, but recal I cannot. Ah Ielousie, a hel to the mind & a horrour to the conscience, suppressing reason, and inciting rage: a worse passion then phrensie, a greater plague then madness. Are the Gods iust? Then let them reuenge such brutish crueltie: my innocent babe I haue drowned in the seas: my louing wife I haue slaine with slanderous suspition: my trusty friend I haue sought to betray, & yet the Gods are slacke to plague such offences. Ah vniust Apollo, Pandosto is the man that hath committed the fault: why should Garinter, seely child, abide the paine? Alas sith the Gods mean to prolog my daies, to increase my dolour, I will offer my guilty bloud a sacrifice to those sacklesse soules, whose liues are lost by my rigorous folly. And with that he reached at a rapier, to haue murdered himselfe, but his Peeres being present, stayed him from such a bloudy act: perswading him to thinke, that the common wealch consisted on his safety, and that those sheepe could not but perishe, that wanted a shepheard: wishing, that if he would not liue for himselfe, yet he should haue care of his subiects, and to put such fancies out of his mind, sith in sores past helpe, salues do not heale, but hurt: & in things past cure, care is a coxasue: with these and such like perswasions the king was overcome, and began somewhat to quiet his minde: so that as soone as hee coulde goe abroad, hee caused his wife to be embalmed, and wapt

Dorastus and Fawnia.

wrapt in lead with her yong sonne Garinter: erecting a rich and famous Sepulchre, wherein he intumbed them both, making such solempne obsequies at her funerall, as all Bohemia might perceiue he did greatly repent him of his forepasse folly: causing this Epitaph to be ingrauen on her Tombe in letters of gold:

¶ The Epitaph.

*Here lies intombde Bellaria faire,
Falsly accusde to be vchaste:
Cleared by Apollos sacred doome,
Yet slaine by Ielousie at last.*

*What ere thou be that passest by,
Curse him that causde this Queene to die.*

This Epitaph being ingraue, Pandosto would once a day repaire to the Tombe, and there with watry plaints bewaile his misfortune: coueting no other companion but sorrow, nor no other harmonie, but repentance. But leauing him to his dolorous passions, at last let vs come to shewe the tragicall discourse of the yong infant.

Who beeing tossed with winde, and waue, floated two whole dayes without succour, readie at euerie puffe to be drowned in the sea, till at last the tempest ceased, and the little boate was driuen with the tide into the coast of Syccilia, where sticking vpon the sands, it rested. Fortune mynding to be wanton, willing to shew that as she hath wrinckles on her browes: so she hath dimples in her cheekes: thought after so many fower looks, to lend a fayned smile, & after a puffing storme, to bring a pretty calme: she bega thus to dally. It fortun'd a poore mercenary shepheard, that dwelled in Syccilia, who got his liuing by other mens flockes, missed one of his sheepe, & thinking it had strayed into the couert, that was hard by, sought very diligently to find y^e which he could not see, fearing either that the wolues, or Eagles had vndone him (for he

The Historie of

was so' poore, as a sheepe was halfe his substance) wandered down toward the sea clifles, to see if perchance the sheep was browsing on the sea Zuite, whereon they greatly do feed, but not finding her there, as he was ready to returne to his flock, he heard a child cry: but knowing there was no house neere, thought he had mistaken the sound, & that it was the bleating of his sheep. Wherefore looking more narrowly, as he cast his eye to the sea, he spied a little boat, from whence as he attentively listned, he might heare the cry to come: standing a good while in a maze, at last he went to the shoare, & wading to the boat, as he looked in, he saw the litle babe lying al alone, ready to die for hunger and cold, wrapped in a mantle of scarlet, richly imbroidered with gold, and hauing a chayne about the necke. The shepheard, who before had neuer seene so faire a babe, nor so rich ietwels, thought assuredly, that it was some litle god, & began with great deuotion to knocke on his brest. The babe, who wythed with the head, to seek for the pap, began againe to cry afresh, whereby the poore man knew that it was a child, which by some sinister means was driuen thither by distresse of weather: maruelling how such a seely infant, which by y mantle, & the chaine, could not be but borne of noble parentage, shuld be so hardly crossed with deadly mishap. The poore shepheard perplexed thus with diuers thoughts, tooke pity of the child, & determined with himself to cary it to the K. that there it might be broght vp, according to the worthinesse of birth: for his abilitie could not affoord to foster it, though his mind was willing to further it. Taking therefore the childe in his armes, as he folded the mantle together, the better to defend it from cold, there fel downe at his foot a very faire & rich purse, wherein he found a great summe of gold: which sight so reuiued the shepherds spirits as he was greatly rauished with ioy, and danted with feare: ioyful to see such a summe in his power: feareful if it should be known, that it might breede his further danger. Necessity wisht him at the least, to retaine the gold, though he would not keep the child: the simplicity of his conscience feared him from such deceitful bribery. Thus was the poore man perplexed with a doubtful Dilemma, vntil at last the couetousnes of the coine overcame him:

Dorastus and Fawnia.

him: for what will not the greedy desire of golde cause a man to do? So that he was resolved in himselfe to foster the child, & with the summe to relieue his want: resting thus resolute in this point, he left seeking of his sheepe, & as couertly, and secretly as he coulde, went by a byway to his house, least any of his neighbours should perceiue his carriage: as soon as hee was got home, entring in at the doore, the child began to cry, which his wife hearing, and seeing her husband with a young babe in his armes, began to be somewhat ielous, yet maruelling that her husband should be so wanton abroad, sith he was so quiet at home: but as women are naturally giue to beleue the worst, so his wife thinking it was some bastard: began to crowe against her goodman, and taking vp a cudgell (for the most maister went breechlesse) sware solemnly that she woulde make clubs trumps, if he brought any bastard hāt within her doores. The goodman seeing his wife in her maiestie with her mace in her hand, thought it was time to bowe for feare of blowes, and desired her to be quiet, for there was none such matter: but if she could hold her peace, they were made for euer: and with that he told her the whole matter, how hee had found the childe in a little boate without any succour, wrapped in that costlie mantle, and hauing that rich chaine about the necke: but at last when he shewed her the purse full of golde, she began to simper something sweetely, and taking her husbande about the necke, kissed him after her homely fashion: saying that she hoped God had seene their want, and now meant to relieue their pouertie, and seeing they could get no children, had sent them this little babe to be their heire. Take heede in any case (quoth the shepheard) that you be secret, and blabbe it not out when you meete with your gossipes, for if you doe, wee are like not onely to lose the golde and iewels, but our other goodes and liues. Tush (quoth his wife) profit is a good hatch before the doore: feare not, I haue other things to talke of then of this: but I pray you let vs lay vp the money surely, and the iewels, least by any mishap it be espied. After that they had set all things in order, the shepheard went to his sheepe with a merry note, and the good wife learned to sing lullaby at home with her young babe, wrapping it in a homely blanket in stead of a rich mantle,

The historie of

nourishing it so cleanly and carefully as it began to be a iolly
girle, insomuch that they began both of them to be verie fond
of it, seeing as it wared in age, so it encreased in beautie. The
shepherd euery night at his comming home, would sing and
daunce it on his knee, and prattle, that in a short time it be-
gan to speake and call him Dad, and her Mam: at last when
it grew to ripe yeares, that it was about seven yeares olde,
the shepherd left keeping of other mens sheepe, and with the
money he found in the purse, he bought him the lease of a pret-
tie farme, and got a small flocke of sheepe, which when Fawnia
(for so they named the childe) came to the age of ten yeares, he
set her to keepe, and she with such diligence perfozmed her
charge as the sheepe prospered maruellously vnder her hands.
Fawnia thought Porrus had bene her father, and Mopsa her
mother, (for so was the shepherd and his wife called) honou-
red and obeyed them with such reuerence, that all the neigh-
bours praysed the dutifull obedience of the childe. Porrus
grewe in short time to be a man of some wealth, and credite:
for fortune so fauoured him in hauing no charge but Fawnia,
that he began to purchase land, intending after his death to
giue it to his daughter: so that diuerse rich farmers sonnes
came as wooers to his house: for Fawnia was something clean-
ly attyzed, beeing of such singular beautie and excellent witte,
that whoso saue her, would haue thought she had bene some
heauenly nymphe, and not a mortall creature: insomuch, that
when she came to the age of sixtene yeares, shee so increased
with exquisite perfection both of bodie and mind, as her natu-
rall disposition did bewray that she was borne of some high pa-
rentage: but the people thinking she was daughter to the shep-
heard Porrus, rested onely amazed at her beautie and wit: yea
she won such fauour and commendations in euery mans eye,
as her beautie was not onely praysed in the countrey, but also
spoken of in the Court: yet such was her submisse modestie,
y although her praysie dayly increased, her minde was no whit
puffed vp with pride, but humbled her selfe as became a coun-
treymaid and the daughter of a poore shepherd. Euery day
she went forth with her sheepe to the field, keeping them with
such care and diligence, as all men thought she was very pain-
full,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

full, defending her face from the heat of the sunne with no other baile, but with a garland made of bowes and flowers: which attire became her so gallantly, as she seemed to be the Goddess Flora her selfe for beautie. Fortune, who all this while had shewed a friendly face, began now to turne her backe, and to shew a lowering countenance, intending as shee had giuen Fawnia a slender checke, so shee would giue her a harder mate: to bring which to passe, she laid her traine on this wise. Egistus had but one onely sonne called Dorastus, about the age of twentie yeeres: a Prince so decked and adorned with the giftes of nature: so fraught with beautie and vertuous qualities, as not onely his father ioyed to haue so good a sonne, and all his commons reioyced that God had sent them such a noble Prince to succede in the kingdome. Egistus placing all his ioy in the perfection of his sonne: seeing that he was now marriageable, sent Ambassadors to the king of Denmarke, to intreate a mariage betwene him and his daughter, who willingly consenting, made answer, that y next spring if it please Egistus with his sonne to come into Denmarke, hee doubted not, but they should agree vpon reasonable conditions. Egistus resting satisfied with this friendly answer, thought convenient in the meane time to breake with his Sonne: finding therefore on a day fit oportunitie, he spake to him in these fatherly termes.

Dorastus, thy youth warneth me to prevent the worst, and mine age to provide the best. Opportunities neglected, are signes of folly: actions measured by time, are seldome bitten with repentance: thou art yong, and I old: age hath taught me that, which thy youth cannot yet conceiue.

I therefore will counsell thee as a father, hoping thou wilt obey as a child. Thou seest my white hayres are blossomes for the graue, and thy fresh colour fruite for time and fortune, so that it behooueth mee to thinke how to die, and for thee to care how to liue. My crowne I must leaue by death, and thou enioy my kingdome by succession, wherein I hope thy vertue and prowesse shall bee such, as though my subiectes want my person, yet they shall see in thee my perfection. What

Dorastus and Fawnia.

nothing either may sayle to satissie thy mind, or increase thy dignities: the onely care I haue, is to see thee well married before I dye, and thou become old.

Dorastus who from his infancie, delighted rather to dye with Mars in the field, then to dally with Venus in the chamber: fearing to displease his father, and yet not willing to be wed, made him this reuerent answer.

Sir, there is no greater bond then dutie, nor no straiter law then nature: disobedience in youth is often galled with despyght in age. The commaund of the father ought to be a constraint to the child: so parents willes are lawes, so they passe not all lawes: may it please your grace therefore to appoint whom I shall loue, rather then by deniall I should be appeached of disobedience: I rest content to loue, though it be the onely thing I hate.

Egistus hearing his sonne to flye farre from the marke, began to be somewhat chollericke, and therefore made him this hastie answer.

What Dorastus canst thou not loue? Commeth this cynicall passion of pene desires, or pœnith frowardnesse. What dost thou thinke thy selfe too good for all, or none good inough for thee: I tell thee: Dorastus, there is nothing sweeter then youth, nor swifter decreasing, while it is increasing. Time past with folly may be repented, but not recalled. If thou marry in age, thy wifes fresh colours will breed in thee dead thoughts and suspition, and thy white hayres her lothsomnesse and sorrow. For Venus affections are not fed with kingdomes, or treasures, but with youthfull conceits and swete amours. Vulcan was allotted to shake the tree, but Mars allowed to reape the fruit. Pœld Dorastus to thy fathers perswasions, which may preuent thy perils. I haue chosen thee a wife, faire by nature, royall by birth, by vertues famous, learned by education, and rich by possessions, so that it is hard to iudge whether her bountie, or fortune, her beautie, or vertue, be of greater force: I meane Dorastus, Euphania daughter and heyre to the king of Denmarke.

Egistus

Dorastus and Fawnia.

EGistus pausing here a while, looking when his sonne should make him answere, and seeing that he stood still as one in a trauance, he shooke him vp thus sharply.

Well Dorastus take heede, the tree Alpya wasteth not with fire, but withereth with the dew: that which loue nourisheth not, perissheth with hate: if thou like Euphania thou breedest my content, and in louing her thou shalt haue my loue, otherwise: and with that he flung from his sonne in a rage, leauing him a sorrowfull man, in that he had by deniall displeased his father, and halfe angrie with himselfe that he could not yeld to that passion, whereto both reason and his father perswaded him: but see how fortune is plumed with times feathers, and how she can minister strange causes to breed strange effects.

It happened not long after this, that there was a meeting of all the Farmers daughters in Sycilia, whither Fawnia was also bidden as the Mistresse of the feast, who hauing attired herselfe in her best garments, went among the rest of her companions to the merrie meeting: there spending the day in such homely pastimes as shepheards vse. As the euening grew on, & their sports ceased, each taking their leaue at other, Fawnia desiring one of her companions to beare her companie, went home by the flocke, to see if they were well folded, and as they returned, it fortuned that Dorastus (who all that day had bene hawking, and kild store of game) incountred by the way these two mayds, and casting his eye suddenly on Fawnia, he was halfe afrayd, fearing that with Acteon he had scene Diana: for he thought such exquisite perfection could not be found in anie mortall creature. As thus he stood in a maze, one of his Pages told him, that the mayde with the garland on her head was Fawnia the faire shepherd, whose beantie was so much talked of in the court. Dorastus desirous to see if nature had adozned her mind with any inward qualities, as she had decked her bodie with outward shape, began to question with her whose daughter she was, of what age, and how she had bene trained vp, who answered him with such modest reuerence & sharpnes of wit, that Dorastus thought her outward beantie was but a

The Historie of

counterfeit to darken her inward qualities, wondering how so courtly behaviour could be found in so simple a cottage, and cursing fortune that had shadowed wit and beautie with such hard fortune. And thus he held her a long while with chat. Beautie seeing him at discouert, thought not to lose the vantage, but strooke him so deeply with an inuened shaft, as he wholly lost his libertie, and became a slave to Love, which before contemned Love, glad now to gaze on a poore shepherd, who before refused the offer of a rich Princeesse: for the perfection of Fawnia had so fired his fancie as he felt his mind greatly chaunged, and his affections altered, cursing Love that had wrought such a chaunge, and blaming the baseness of his mind that would make such a choise: but thinking these were but passionate toys that might be thrust out at pleasure, to avoid the Syren that enchanted him, he put spurres to his horse, and had this faire shepherd fare well.

Fawnia (who all this while had marked the princely gesture of Dorastus) seeing his face so well featured, and each line so perfectly framed, began greatly to praise his perfection, commending him so long, till she found her selfe faultie, and perceived that if she waded but a litle further, she might slip over the shoes: she therefore seeking to quench that fire which neuer was put out, went home, and saying her selfe not well at ease, got her to bed: where casting a thousand thoughts in her head, she could take no rest: for if she waked, she began to call to mind his beautie, & thinking to beguile such thoughts with sleepe, she then dreamed of his perfection: pestered thus with these vnacquainted passions, she passed the night as she could in short slumbers.

Dorastus (who all this while rode with a flea in his care) could not by any meanes forget the swete fauour of Fawnia, but rested so bewitched with her wit and beautie, as he could take no rest. He felt fancie to give the assault, and his wounded mind ready to yield as vanquished: yet he began with diuers considerations to suppress his frantick affection, calling to minde, that Fawnia was a shepherd, one not worthy to be looked at of a Prince, much lesse to be loued of such a potentate, thinking what a discredit it were to himselfe, and what a
griefe

Dorastus and Fawnia.

griefe it would be to his father, blaming fortune and accusing his own folly, that should be so fond as but once to cast a glaunce at such a country flut. As thus he was raging against himselfe, Loue, fearing if she dallie long, to lose her champion, stept more nigh, and gaue him such a fresh wound as it pearst him at the heart, that he was faine to yeeld, maugre his face, and to forsake the companie and get him to his chamber : where being solemnly set, he burst into these passionate termes.

A Dorastus, art thou alone? No not alone, while thou art tired with these vnacquainted passions. Yeeld to fancies, thou canst not by thy fathers counsell, but in a frenzie thou art by iust destinies. Thy father were content, if thou couldst loue, and thou therefore discontent, because thou dost loue. O, diuine Loue, feared of men because honoured of the gods, not to be suppressed by wisdom, because not to be comprehended by reason: without Law, and therefore above all law.

How now Dorastus, why dost thou blaze that with praises, which thou hast cause to blaspheme with curses? Yet why should they curse Loue, which are in Loue?

Blush Dorastus at thy fortune, thy choise, thy loue: thy thoughts cannot be uttered without shame, nor thy affections without discredit. Ah Fawnia, sweet Fawnia, thy beauty Fawnia.

Shamest not thou Dorastus, to name one vnfitte for thy birth, thy dignities, thy kingdomes? Die Dorastus, Dorastus, die, better hadst thou perishe with high desires, than liue in base thoughts. Yea but, beantie must be obeyed, because it is beantie, yet framed of the Gods to seduce the eye, not to fetter the heart.

Ah, but he that strineth against Loue, shooteth with them of Scyrum agaynst the winde, and with the Cockatrice pecketh against the Steele. I will therefore obey, because I must obey. Fawnia, yea Fawnia shall be my fortune, in spite of fortune. The Gods above disdaine not to loue women beneath. Phoebus liked Sibilla, Iupiter, Io, and why not I then Fawnia, one something inferiour to these in birth, but farre superiour to them in beantie, bozne to be a Shepherd, but worthy to be a Goddesse.

The Historie of

Oh Dorastus, wilt thou so forget thy selfe as to suffer affection to suppress wisdom, and Love to violate thine honour? How soever will thy choice be to thy father, sorrowfull to thy subiects, to thy friends a griefe, most glad some to thy foes? Subdue then thy affection, and cease to love her whom thou couldest not love, vnlesse blinded with too much love. Thus I talke to the wind, and in seeking to prevent the causes, I further the effects. I will yet praise Fawnia, honour, yea and love Fawnia, and at this day follow content, not counsell. Do Dorastus, thou canst but repent: and with that his Page came into the chamber, whereupon he ceased from complaints, hoping that time would weare out that which fortune had wrought. As thus he was pained, so poore Fawnia was diuersly perplexed: for the next morning getting vp very early, she went to her sheepe, thinking with hard labours to passe away her new conceiued amours, beginning verie busily to drine them to the field, and then to shift the solos, at last (wearied with toyle) she sate her downe, where (poore soule) she was more tried with fond affections: for love began to assault her, in so much that as she sate vpon the side of a hill, she began to accuse her owne folly in these termes.

I Misfortunate Fawnia, and therefore misfortunate because Fawnia, thy shepherds hook she weth thy poore state, thy proud desires an aspiring mind: the one declareth thy want, the other thy pride. No bastard hauke must soare so high as the Hobbie, no fowle gaze against the Sunne but the Eagle, actions wrought against nature reape despight, and thoughts about Fortune disdaine.

Fawnia, thou art a shepheard, daughter to poore Porrus: if thou rest content with this, thou art like to stande, if thou climbe thou art sure to fall. The herbe Anita growing higher then sixe inches becommeth a weede. Nylus flowing more then twelue cubits procureth a dearth. Daring affections that passe measure, are cut short by time or fortune: suppress then Fawnia those thoughts which thou mayest shame to expresse. But oh Fawnia, love is a Lord, who will command by power, and constrain by force.

Dorastus

Dorastus and Fawnia.

Dorastus, ah Dorastus is the man I loue, the woofe is thy hap, and the lesse cause hast thou to hope. Will Eagles catch at flies, will Cedars stoupe to brambles, or mighty Princes looke at such homely trulles. No, no, thinke this, Dorastus disdain is greater then thy desire, he is a Prince respecting his honor, thou a beggars hat forgetting thy calling. Cease then not onely to say, but to thinke to loue Dorastus, and dissemble thy loue Fawnia, for better it were to die with griefe, then to liue with shame: yet in despite of loue I will sigh, to see if I can sigh out loue. Fawnia somewhat appeasing her griefs with these pithy perswasions, began after her wonted manner to walke about her sheepe, and to keepe them from straying into the cozne, suppressing her affection with the due consideration of her base estate, and with the impossibilites of her loue, thinking it were freisie, not fancy, to couet that which the very destinies deny her to obtaine.

But Dorastus was more impatient in his passions: for loue so fiercely assailed him, that neither company, nor musick coulde mitigate his martirdome, but did rather farre the more increase his malady: shame would not let him craue counsaile in this case, nor feare of his fathers displeasure reueile it to any secret friend: but hee was faine to make a secretarie of himselfe, and to participate his thoughts with his owne troubled minde. Lingring thus a while in doubtfull suspence, at last stealing secretly from the Court without either men or Page, hee went to see if hee coulde espy Fawnia walking abroad in the field, but as one hauing a great deale more skill to retriue the partridge with his spaniels, then to hunt after such a strange pray, he sought, but was little the better: which crosse lucke draue him into a great choler, that hee began both to accuse loue and fortune. But as he was ready to retire, he saw Fawnia sitting all alone vnder the side of a hill, making a garlande of such homely flowers as the fieldes did afford. This sight so reuiued his spirites that he drew nigh, with more iudgement to take a view of her singular perfection, which he found to bee such, as in that country attire shee stained all the courtly Dames of Sycilia. While thus he stood gazing with pearcing looks on her surpassing beautie,

The Historie of

Fawnia cast her eye aside, and spied Dorastus, with sodaine sight made the poore girle to blush, & to dye her christall cheeks with a vermilion red: which gaue her such a grace, as shee seemed farre more beautifull. And with that she rose vp, saluting the Prince with such modest curtesies, as hee wondered how a country mayd could asford such courtly behauiour. Dorastus, repaying her curtesie with a smiling countenance, began to parly with her on this manner.

Faire mayde (quoth he) either your want is great, or a shepherdes life very sweet, that your delight is in such country labours. I can not conceine what pleasure you shoulde take, vnlesse you meane to imitate the nimpbes, being your selfe so like a Nymph. To put me out of this doubt, shew me what is to be commended in a shepherdes life, and what pleasures you haue to counteruaile these dudging labours. Fawnia with blushing face made him this ready answere.

Sir, what richer state then content, or what sweeter life then quiet, we shepherds are not borne to honoz, nor beholding vnto beaue, the lesse care we haue to feare fame or fortune: we count our attire braue inough if warme inough, and our foode dainty, if to suffice nature: our greatest enemy is the wolfe: our only care in safe keeping our flocke: in stead of courtly pitties we spend the daies with country songs: our amorous conceits are homely thoughtes: delighting as much to talke of Pan and his country pranks: as Ladies to tell of Venus and her wanton toyes. Our toile is in shifting the foldes, and looking to the Lambes easie labours: oft singing & telling tales, homely pleasures: our greatest wealth not to reuet, our honoz not to climbe, our quiet not to care. Enuy looketh not so lowe as shepherds: shepherds gaze not so high as ambition: we are rich in that we are poore with content, and proud only in this that we haue no cause to be proud.

This witty answere of Fawnia so inflamed Dorastus fancy as he commended himselfe for making so good a choice, thinking, if her birth were answerable to her wit and beauty,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

tie, that she were a fit mate for the most famous prince in the world. He therefore began to list her more narrowly on this manner.

FAwnia. I see thou art content with country labours, because thou knowest not courtly pleasures: I commend thy wit, and pitie thy want: but wilt thou leave thy fathers cottage, and serue a courtly mistresse.

Sir (quoth she) beggers ought not to strine against fortune nor to gaze after honour, lest either their fall bee greater, or they become blind. I am bozne to tople for the court, not in the Court, my nature vnfit for their nurture, better liue then in meane degree, than in high disdain.

Well saide Fawnia (quoth Dorastus) I gesse at thy thoughts, thou art in loue with some country shepheard.

No sir (quoth she) shepherds cannot loue, that are so simple, and maides may not loue that are so yong.

May therefore (quoth Dorastus) maids must loue, because they are yong, for Cupid is a child, and Venus, though old, is painted with fresh colours.

I grant (saide she) age may be painted with new shadowes, and youth may haue imperfect affections: but what art concealeth in one ignorance reuealeth in the other. Dorastus seeing Fawnia held him so hard, thought it was vaine so long to beate about the bush: therefore he thought to haue giuen her a fresh charge: but he was so preuented by certain of his men, who missing their master, came posting to seeke him, seeing that he was gone forth all alone, yet before they drew so nie that they might heare their talke, he vsed these speeches.

Why Fawnia, perhaps I loue thee, and then thou must needes yeelde, for thou knowest I can commaund and constrain. Trueth sir (quoth she) but not to loue: for constrained loue is force, not loue: and know this sir, mine honesty is such, as I had rather die than be a Concubine euen vnto a king, and my birch is so base as I am vnfit to be a wife to a poore farmer. Why then, quoth he, thou canst not loue Dorastus? yes saide Fawnia, when Dorastus becomes a shepheard, and with that y^e presence of his men broke off their parle, so that

The Historie of

he went with them to the pallace, and left Fawnia sitting still on the hill side, who seeing that the night drew on, shifted her fouldes, and busied herselfe about other worke to drive away such fond fancies as began to trouble her braine. But all this could not preuaile, for the beauty of Dorastus had made such a deepe impression in her heart, as it could not be worne out without cracking, so that she was forced to blame her owne folly in this wise.

Ah Fawnia, why dost thou gaze against the Sunne, or catch at the wind: stars are to be looked at with the eye, not reached at with the hand: thoughts are to be measured by fortunes, not by desires: fallcs come not by sitting lowe, but by climbing too high: what then, shall all feare to fall, because some hap to fall: No, lucke commeth by lot, and fortune windeth those threeds which the destinies spin. Thou art fauored Fawnia of a prince, and yet thou art so fond to reiect desired fauours: thou hast denial at thy tongues end, and desire at thy hearts bottome: a womans fault, to spurne at that with her foot, which she greedily catcheth at with her hand: thou louest Dorastus, Fawnia, and yet seemest to lower. Take heede, if he retire, thou wilt repent: for vnles he loue, thou canst but die. Die then Fawnia: for Dorastus doth but iest: the lion neuer preyeth on the mouse, nor faulcons stoupe not to dead stales. Sit downe then in sorrow, cease to loue, and content thy selfe, that Dorastus will vouchsafe for to flatter Fawnia, though not to fancie Fawnia. Heigh ho: Ah foole, it were seemelier for thee to whistle as a shepheard, than to sigh as a louer, & with that she ceased from these perplexed passions, folding her sheep, and hying home to her poore cottage. But such was the inconstant sorrowe of Dorastus to thinke on the wit and beaktie of Fawnia, and to see how fond hee was being a prince: and how froward she was being a beggar, then he began to loose his wonted appetite, to looke pale and wan: instead of mirth, to feede on melancholy: for courtly daunces to vse cold dumpes: insomuch, that not only his owne men, but his father and all the Court began to maruell at his sodain change, thinking that some lingring sickness had brought
him

Dorastus and Fawnia.

him into this state: wherefore he caused Physicians to come, but Dorastus neither would let them minister, nor so much as suffer them to see his byrne: but remained still so oppressed with these passions, as hee feared in himselfe a farther inconuenience. His hono^r wished him to cease from such folly, but Loue forced him to follow fancie: yea and in despite of honour, loue wonne the conquest, so that his hot desires caused him to finde new deuises, for hee presently made himselfe a shepherdes coate, that he might go vnkowne, and with the lesse suspicion to prattle with Fawnia, and conueyed it secretly into a thicke groue hard ioyning to the Pallace, whither finding fit time, and opportunity, he went all alone, and putting off his Princely apparell, got on those shepherds robes, and taking a great booke in his hand (which he had also gotten) he went very anxiously to find out the mistresse of his affection: but as he went by the way, seeing himselfe clad in such vnseemely ragges, hee began to smile at his owne folly, and to repproue his fondnesse in these tearmes.

VELL said Dorastus, thou keepest a right decorum, base desires and homely attires: thy thoughtes are fit for none but a shepherd, and thy apparell such as only become a shepherd. A strange change from a Prince to a peasant. What, is it thy wretched fortune or thy wilfull folly? Is it thy cursed destinies or thy crooked desires, that appointeth thee this penance? Ah Dorastus thou canst but loue, and vnlesse thou loue thou art like to perish for loue. Yet, fond foole, choose flowers, not weedes: Diamonds, not peables: Ladies, which may honour thee: not shepherds which maie disgrace thee. Venus is painted in silkes, not in ragges: and Cupid treadeth on disdain, when he reacheth at dignity. And yet Dorastus shame not at thy shepherds weede: the heauenly Gods haue sometime earthly thoughtes: Neptune became a Ram, Iupiter a Bull, Apollo a shepherd: they Gods, and yet in loue: and thou a man appointed to loue.

Deuising thus with himselfe, hee drew nigh to the place where Fawnia was keeping her sheepe, who casting her eie aside, and seeing such a manerly shepherd, perfectly limmed,

The Historie of

& coming with so good a pace, she began halfe to forget Dorastus, & to saue this pretie shepheard, whom she thought she might both loue & obtaine: but as she was in these thoughtes, she perceiued then, it was the yong Prince Dorastus, wherefore she rose vp, and reuently saluted him. Dorastus taking her by the hand, repayed her curtesie with a sweete kisse, & praying her to sit downe by him, he began thus to lay the battery.

If thou maruell Fawnia at my strange attire, thou wouldest moze muse at mine vnaccustomed thoughts: the one disgraceth but my outward shape, the other disturbeth my inward senses. I loue Fawnia, and therefore what loue liketh I cannot mislike. Fawnia thou hast promised to loue, and I hope thou wilt performe no lesse: I haue fulfilled thy request, and now thou canst but grant my desire. Thou wert content to loue Dorastus when he reast to be a Prince, and to become a shepheard, and see I haue made the change, and therefore not to misse of my choice.

TRuth, quoth Fawnia, but all that weare cooles are not Monkes: painted Eagles are pictures, not Eagles. Zeuss Grapes were like Grapes, yet shadowes: rich cloathing make not princes: nor homely attire beggers: shepherdes are not called shepherds, because they were hookes and bags: but they are borne poore, and liue to keepe steepe, so this attire hath not made Dorastus a shepheard, but to seeme like a shepheard.

VELL Fawnia answered Dorastus: were I a shepheard I could not but like thee, & being a prince I am fozst to loue thee. Take heede Fawnia, be not proud of beauties painting, for it is a flower that fladeth in the blossome. Those which disdain in youth, are despised in age: Beauties shadowes are trickt vp with times colours, which beeing set to drie in the sunne are stained with the sunne, scarce pleasing the sight ere they begin not to be worth the sight, not much unlike the hearbe Ephemeron, which flourisheth in the morning, and is withered before the sunne setting: if my desire were
against

Dorastus and Fawnia:

against law, thou mightest iustly deny me by reason, but I loue thee Fawnia not to misuse thee as a concubine, but to vse thee as my wife: I can promise no more, and meane to performe no lesse.

Fawnia hearing this solempne protestation of Dorastus, could no longer withstand the assault, but yielded vp the fort in these friendly termes.

As Dorastus, I shame to expresse that thou forcest me with thy sugred speech to confesse: my base birth causeth the one, and thy high dignities the other. Beggars thoughts ought not to reach so far as kings, and yet my desires reach as high as princes, I dare not say Dorastus I loue thee, because I am a shepherd, but the gods know I haue honoured Dorastus (pardon if I say amisse) yea and loued Dorastus with such dutiful affection as Fawnia can performe, or Dorastus desire: I yeeld, not ouercome with prayers, but with loue, resting Dorastus handmaid ready to obey his will, if no prejudice at all to his honour, nor to my credit,

Dorastus hearing this friendly conclusion of Fawnia, embraced her in his armes, swearing that neither distance, time, nor aduerse fortune should diminish his affection: but that in despite of the destinies he would remaine loyall vnto death. Hauing thus plight their troth each to other, seeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in Sycilia, for that Egistus consent would neuer be granted to so meane a match, Dorastus determined as soone as time and opportunitie would giue them leaue, to prouide a great masse of money, and many rich and costly iewels, for the easier carriage, and then to transport themselves and their treasure into Italy, where they should leade a contented life, vntil such time as either he could be reconciled to his father, or else by succession came to the kingdom. This deuise was greatly praised of Fawnia, for she feared if the king his father should but heare of the contract, that his furie wold be such as no lesse then death would stand for payment: she therefore tolde him, that verily byed danger: that many mishaps did fall out betwene the
cup

The Historie of

cup and the lip, and that to auoide anger, it were best with as much speed as might be, to passe out of Sycilia, lest fortune might preuent their pretence with some newe despight: Dorastus, whom loue pricked forward with desire, promised to dispatch his affaires with as great haste as either time or opportunity would giue him leaue: and so resting vpon this point, after many imbracings and sweet kisses they departed. Dorastus hauing take his leaue of his best beloued Fawnia, went to the groue where he had his rich apparel, and there vnticing him selfe as secretly as might be, hiding by his shepheards attire, till occasion should serue againe to vse it: he went to the pallace, shewing by his merry countenaunce, that either the state of his body was amended, or the case of his mind greatly redressed. Fawnia poore soule was no lesse ioyfull, that beeing a shepheard, fortune had fauoured her so, as to rewarde her with the loue of a Prince, hoping in time to be aduanced from the daughter of a poore farmer, to bee the wife of a rich King: so that she thought euery houre a yeare, till by their departure they might preuent daunger, not ceasing still to go euerie day to her sheepe, not so much for the care of her flocke, as for the desire she had to see her loue and Lord Dorastus: who oftentimes when opportunity would serue, repaired thither to feede his fancie with the sweete content of Fawnias presence: and although he neuer went to visit her, but in his shepheards ragges, yet his oft repaire made him not only suspected, but knowne to diuerse of their neighbours: who for the good will they bare to old Porrus, told him secretly of the matter, wishing him to keepe his daughter at home, lest shee went so oft to the field that she brought him home a young sonne: for they feared that Fawnia beeing so beautifull, the young Prince would allure her to folly. Porrus was stricken into a dump at these newes, so that thanking his neighbours for their good will: he hyed him home to his wife, & calling her aside, wringing his hands, and shedding forth teares, he brake the matter to her in these termes.

I Am afraid wife, that my daughter Fawnia hath made her selfe so fine, that she will buy repentance too deare. I heare newes,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

news, which if they be true, some will wish they had not proved true. It is told me by my neighbours, that Dorastus the Kings sonne begins to looke at our daughter Fawnia : which if it be so, I will not give her a halfe pemie for her honestie at the yeares ende. I tell thee wife, nowadayes beauty is a great snare to trap yong men, and faire wordes and swete promises are two great enemies to maidens honestie: and thou knowest where poore men intreat, and cannot obtaine, there Princes may commaund, and will obtaine. Though kings sonnes daunce in nets, they may not be seene: but poore mens fautes are spied at a little hole. Well: it is a hard case where kings lusts are lawes, and that they should bind poore men to that which they themselves wilfully breake.

Peace husband (quoth his wife) take heede what you say: speake no more than you shoulde, least you heare what you would not, great streames are to bee stopped by sleight, not by force: and princes to be perswaded by submission, not by rigor: do what you can, but no more than you may, least in saving Fawnias maidenhead, you lose your owne head. Take heede I say, it is ill leastring with edged toles, and bad sportng with kings. The Wolfe had his skinne pulled over his eares for but looking into the Lions den. Tush wife (quoth he) thou speakest like a tole, if the King should knowe that Dorastus had begotten our daughter with childe (as I feare it will fall out little better) the kings furie would be such, as no doubt wee should both lose our goods and lines: necessitie therefore hath no lawe, and I will prevent this mischief with a new devise that is come in my head, which shall neither offends the King, nor displease Dorastus. I meane to take the chaine and the iewels that I found with Fawnia, and carrie them to the King, letting him then to vnderstand how she is none of my daughter, but that I found her beaten vp with the water alone in a little boat wrapped in a rich Mantle, wherein was inclosed this treasure. By this meanes I hope the King will take Fawnia into his seruice, and wee whatsoeuer chaunceth shall be blamelesse. This devise pleased the good wife very well, so that they determined as soone as they might knowe the King at leasure, to make him priue to this case. In the meane time

The Historie of

Dorastus was not slacke in his affaires, but applied his matters with such diligence, that he provided all things fit for their iourney. Treasure and icwels he had gotten great store, thinking there was no better friend than money in a strange countrey: rich attire he had provided for Fawnia, and because he could not bring the matter to passe without the helpe and aduise of some one, he made an olde servant of his called Capnio, who had serued him from his childhode, priuie to his affaires: who seeing no perswasions could preuaile to diuert him from his settled determination, gaue his consent, and dealt so secretly in the cause, that within short space he had gotten a ship readie for their passage: the Mariners seeing a fit gale of winde for their purpose, wished Capnio to make no delays, least if they pretermitted this good weather, they might stay long ere they had such a faire winde. Capnio fearing that his negligence should hinder the iourney, in the night time conveyed the trunckes full of treasure into the shippe, and by secret meanes let Fawnia vnderstande, that the next morning they meant to depart: she vpon this newes slept very little that night, but got her vp verie early, and went to her sheepe, looking euery minute when she should see Dorastus, who tarried not long, for feare delay might breede daunger, but came as fast as he could gallop, and without any great circumstance tooke Fawnia vp behinde him, and rode to the haueu where the ship lay, which was not three quarters of a mile distant from that place. As sooner came there, but the Mariners were readie with their cockeboate to set them aboard, where being coucht together in a Cabben, they past away the time in recounting their olde loues, till their man Capnio could come. Porrus who had heard that this morning the King would goe abroad to take the aire, called in haste to his wife to bring him his holy day hose, and his best Jacket, that he might goe like an honest substantiall man to tell his tale. His wife a good cleanly wench, brought him all things fitte, and spunged him vp very handsomlie, giuing him the chaine and the icwels in a little boxe, which Porrus for the more safetie put in his bosome. Having thus all his trinkets in a readinesse, taking his staffe in his hand, he bad his wife kisse him for good lucke, and so he went

Dorastus and Fawnia

went towards the Pallace. But as he was going, fortune (who meant to shew him a little false play) prevented his purpose in this wise.

He met by chance in his way Capnio, who trudging as fast as he could with a little coffer vnder his arme to the ship, and spying Porrus, whom he knew to be Fawnias Father, going towards the Pallace, being a wylie fellow, began to doubt the worst, and therefore cross him the way, and ask him whether he was going so early this morning.

Porrus (who knew by his face that he was one of the Court) meaning simply, told him that the Kings son Dorastus dealt hardly with him: for he had but one Daughter who was a little Beautifull, and that his neighbours told him the young Prince had allured her to folly, he went therefore now to complaine to the King how greatly he was abused.

Capnio (who straight way smelt the whole matter) began to sooth him in his talke, and said, that Dorastus dealt not like a Prince to spoyle any poore mans daughter in that sort: he therefore would do the best for him he could, because he knew he was an honest man. But (quoth Capnio) you lose your labour in going to the Pallace, for the King meanes this day to take the aire of the sea, and to go aboard of a ship that lyes in the haven, I am going before, you see, to provide all things in a readinesse, and if you will follow my counsell, turne backe with me to the haven, where I will set you in such a fit place as you may speake to the King at your pleasure. Porrus giuing credit to Capnios smoth tale, gaue him a thousand thanks for his friendly aduise, and went with him to the haven, making all the way his complaints of Dorastus, yet concealing secretly the chaine and the iewels. As soon as they were come to the sea side, the marriners seeing Capnio, came a land with their cocke-boate, who stil dissembling the matter, demanded of Porrus if he would go see the ship, who vnwilling and fearing the worst, because he was not well acquainted with Capnio made his excuse that he could not brooke the Sea, therefore would not trouble him.

Capnio, seeing that by faire meanes he could not get him aboard, commanded the mariners that by violence they should

The historie of

carrie him into the shippe, who like sturdie knaves hoisted the
poore shepheard on their backs, and bearing him to the boate,
lanched from the land.

Porrus seeing himselfe so cunningly betrayed, durst not crie
out, for hee saw it would not preuaile, but began to intreate
Capnio and the mariners to be good to him, and to pitie his
estate, he was but a poore man that liued by his labour: they
laughing to see the shepheard so afrayd, made as much haste as
they could, and set him aboard. Porrus was no sooner in the ship
but hee sawe Dorastus walking with Fawnia, yet hee scarce
knew hir: for she had attired herselfe in rich apparell, which
so increased her beautie, that she resembled rather an Angell
than a creature.

Dorastus and Fawnia, were halfe astonished to see the olde
shepheard, maruelling greatly what winde had brought him
thither, til Capnio told them all the whole discourse: how Por-
rus was going to make his complaint to the King, if by polli-
cie he had not prevented him, and therefore now sith he was a-
board, for the auoyding of further daunger, it were best to carie
him into Italie.

Dorastus praised greatly his mans deuise, and allowed of
his counsaile: but Fawnia, (who still feared Porrus, as her fa-
ther) began to blush for shame, that by her meanes hee should
either incurre daunger or displeasure.

The old shepheard hearing this hard sentence, that he should
on such a sodaine bee caried from his wife, his countrey and
kinsfolke, into a foraine land amongst straungers, began
with bitter teares to make his complaint, and on his knees to
intreate Dorastus, that pardoning his vnadvised follie, hee
would giue him leaue to go home: swearing that hee would
keepe all things as secret as they could wish. But these pro-
testations could not preuaile, although Fawnia intreated Do-
rastus verie earnestly, but the mariners hoisting their maine
sailes weyed anchors, and hailed into the deepe, where we leaue
them to the fauor of the wind and seas, & returne to Egistus.

Who hauing appointed this day to hunt in one of his
Forrests, called for his Sonne Dorastus to goe sport
himselfe

Dorast and Fawnia.

himselfe, because he sawe that of late he began to lōwe: but his men made answer that he was gone abroad none knewe whither, except he were gone to the groue to walke all alone, as his custome was to do euery day.

The king willing to waiken him out of his dumpes, sent one of his men to goe seeke him, but in vaine, for at last he returned, but finde him he could not, so that the king went himselfe to goe see the sport: where passing away the day, returning at night from hunting, he asked for his sonne, but hee could not be heard of, which dzaue the king into a great choller: wherupon most of his noble men and other courtiers, posted abroad to seeke him, but they could not heare of him through all Sycilia, onely they missed Capnio his man, which againe made the king suspect that he was not gone farre.

Two or thre dayes being passed, and no newes heard of Dorastus, Egistus began to feare that he was deuoured with some wilde beastes, and upon that made out a great troupe of men to goe seeke him: who coasted through all the Countrey, and searched in euery dangerous and secret place, untill at last they met with a fisherman that was sitting in a little couert hard by the sea side mending his nettes, when Dorastus and Fawnia tooke shipping: who being examined if he either knew or heard where the kings sonne was, without any secrecie at all reuealed the whole matter, how he was sayled two daies past, and had in his company his man Capnio, Porrus, and his faire daughter Fawnia. This heauie newes was presently caried to the king, who halfe dead for sorrow, commaunded Porrus wife to be sent for: shee being come to the Pallace, after due examination, confessed that her neighbours had oft tolde her that the kings sonne was too familiar with Fawnia her daughter: wherenpon her husband fearing the worst, about two dayes past (hearing the King should goe on hunting) rose early in the morning and went to make his complaint, but since she neither heard of him, nor saw him. Egistus perceyning the womans vnfeigned simplicitie, let her depart without incurring further displeasure, concealing such secret grieue for his Sonnes recklesse follie, that he had so forgotten his honour and parentage, by so base a choise to dishe-

The Historie of

no2 his father, and discredit himselfe, that with very care and thought he fell into a quartan fever, which was so unfit for his aged yeares and complexion, that he became so weake, as the Physicians would graunt him no life.

But his sonne Dorastus little regarded either father, country: or kingdome, in respect of his Lady Fawnia, for fortune smiling on his young novice, let him so luckie a gale of wind, for the space of a day and a night, that the Mariners lay and slept upon the hatches: but on the next morning about the breake of the day, the aire began to euercast, the winds to rise, the seas to swell, yea presently there arose such a fearefull tempest, as the ship was in danger to be swallowed up with euery sea. the maine mast with the violence of the wind was thrown ouer board, the sayles were torne, the tackling went in sunder, the storme raging still so furiously that poore Fawnia was almost dead for feare, but that she was greatly comforted with the presence of Dorastus. The tempest continued three dayes, all which time the Mariners euery minute looked for death, & the aire was so darkned with cloudes that the Master could not tell by his compasse in what coast they were. But upon the fourth day about ten of the clocke, the wind began to cease, the sea to wax calme and the sky to be cleare, and the Mariners descryed the coast of Bohemia, shooting of their ordinance for ioy that they had escaped such a fearefull tempest.

Dorastus hearing that they were arriued at some harbour, sweetly kissed Fawnia, and bad her be of good cheare: when they told him that the Port belonged vnto the chiefe Citty of Bohemia where Pandosto kept his Court, Dorastus began to be sad: knowing that his father hated no man so much as Pandosto, and that the King himselfe had sought secretly to betray Egistus: this considered, he was halfe afrayd to go on land, but that Capnio counselled him to chaunge his name and his country, vntill such time as they could get some other Barke to transport them into Italy. Dorastus liking this deuise made his case priuie to the Mariners, rewarding them bountifullly for their paynes, and charging them to say that he was a Gentleman of Triapalonia called Meleagrus. The Shipman willing to shew what friendship they could to Dorastus,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

thus, promised to be as secret as they could, or hee might wish, and vpon this they landed in a little Village a mile distant from the Citie, where after they had rested a day, thinking to make provision for their marriage: the fame of Fawnias beautie was spread throughout all the Citie, so that came to the eare of Pandosto: who then being about the age of fiftie, had notwithstanding yong and fresh affections: so that hee desired greatly to see Fawnia, and to bring this matter the better to passe, hearing they had but one man, and how they rested at a very homely house: he caused them to be apprehended as spies, and sent a dozen of his guard to take them: who being come to their lodging, tolde them the kings message: Dorastus no whit dismayed, accompanied with Fawnia and Capric, went to the court (for they left Porrus to keepe the stuffe) who being admitted to the kings presence, Dorastus and Fawnia with humble obeysance saluted his Maiestie.

Pandosto amazed at the singular perfection of Fawnia, stood half astonished, viewing her beautie, so that he had almost forgot himselfe what he had to doe: at last with stearne countenance he demaunded their names, and of what countrey they were, and what caused them to land in Bohemia. Sir (quoth Dorastus) know that my name Meleagrus is a knight borne and brought vp in Trapolonia, and this Gentlewoman, whom I meane to take to my wife is an Italian borne in Padua, from whence I haue now brought her. The cause I haue so small a traine with me, is for that her friends unwilling to consent, I intented secretly to conuey her into Trapolonia: whether as I was sayling, by distresse of weather I was driuen into these coasts: thus haue you heard my name, my countrey, and the cause of my voyage. Pandosto starting from his seat as one in choler made this rough reply.

Meleagrus, I feare this smooth tale hath but small trueth, and that thou couerest a foule skin with faire paintings. No doubt this Ladie by her grace and beautie is of hie degree more meete for a mightie Prince, than for a simple knight, and thou like a periured traitor hast bereft her of her parents, to their present griefe, and her insuing sorrow. Till therefore I heare more of her parentage and of thy calling, I will stay you

The Historie of

both here in Bohemia.

Dorastus, in whom rested nothing but kingly valour, was not able to suffer the reproches of Pandosto, but that he made him this answer.

It is not meete for a king, without due proofe to appeach any man of ill behaviour, nor upon suspicion to inferre belæse: straungers ought to be entertained with curtesie: not to be intreated with crueltie, least being forced by want to put vp injuries: the gods reuenge their cause with rigour.

Pandosto hearing Dorastus utter these wordes, commaunded that he should straight be committed to prison, vntill such time as they heard further of his pleasure, but as for Fawnia, he charged that she should be entertained in the Court, with such curtesie as belonged to a straunger and her calling. The rest of the shipmen he put into the Dungeon.

Having thus hardly handled the supposed Trapalonians: Pandosto contrarie to his aged yeares began to bee somewhat tickled with the beautie of Fawnia, insomuch that he could take no rest, but cast in his old head a thousand new deuises: at last he fell into these thoughts.

How art thou pestered Pandosto with fresh affections, and vnfit fancies, withing to possesse with an vnwilling mind, and a hote desire troubled with a colde disdain: Shall thy minde yeelde in age to that thou hast resisted in youth? Peace Pandosto, blabbe not out that which thou mayest bee ashamed to reueale to thy selfe. Ah Fawnia is beautifull, and it is for thine honour (fonde soule) to name her that is thy captiue, and another mans concubine. Alas, I reach at that with my hande, which my heart would faine refuse: playing like the byrd Ibis in Egypt, which hateth Serpents, yet setteth on her egges.

Such hote desires turne oftentimes to colde disdain: Loue is brittle, where appetite, not reason beares the sway: Kings thoughts ought not to climbe so high as the heauens, but to looke no lower than honour: better it is to pecke at the starres with the young Eagles, than to prey on dead carcases with the

Dorastus and Fawnia.

the Culture: tis more honorable for Pandosto to die by concealing Loue, then to enioy such vnfit Loue. Doth Pandosto then loue? Yea: whom? A maide vnknowne, yea and perhappes, immodest, stragled out of her owne country: beautifull, but not therefore chaste: comely in body, but perhappes crooked in minde. Cease then Pandosto to looke at Fawnia, much lesse to loue her: be not ouertaken with a womans beautie, whose eyes are framed by art to inamour, whose heart is framed by nature to inchaunt, whose false teares know their true times, and whose sweete words pearce deeper then sharpe swords. Here Pandosto from his talke, but not from his loue: for although he sought by reason, and wisdom to suppress this franticke affection: yet he could take no rest, the beauty of Fawnia had made such a deepe impression in his heart. But on a day walking abroad into a Parke which was hard adioyning to his house, he sent by one of his seruantes for Fawnia, vnto whom he vttered these words.

Fawnia, I commend thy beautie and wit, and now pitie thy distresse and want: but if thou wilt forsake Sir Meliagrus, whose pouertie, though a knight, is not able to maintaine an estate aunswerable to thy beauty, and yeelde thy consent to Pandosto: I will both increase thee with dignities and riches. No sir, answered Fawnia: Meliagrus is a knight that hath wonne me by loue, and none but hee shall weare me: his sinister mischance shall not diminish my affection, but rather increase my good will: thinke not though your Grace hath imprisoned him without cause, that feare shall make me yeeld my consent: I had rather be Meliagrus wife, and a begger, then liue in plentie, and be Pandostos Concubine. Pandosto hearing the assured aunswere of Fawnia, would, notwithstanding, prosecute his suit to the vttermost: seeking with faire wordes and great promises to scale the fort of her chastitie, swearing that if she would graunt to his desire, Meleagrus should not onely be set at libertie, but honored in his Court amongst his Nobles: but these alluring baytes could not intise her minde from the loue of her new betrothed mate Meleagrus: which Pandosto seeing, he left her alone for that time to

The Historie of

consider more of the demaand. Fawnia being alone by her selfe, began to enter into these solitarie meditations.

Ah infortunate Fawnia, thou seest to desire aboue fortune, is to striue against the Gods, and fortune. Who gazeth at the sunne weakeneth his sight: they which stare at the sky, fall oft into deepe pits: haddest thou rested content to haue beene a shepheard, thou needest not to haue feared mishance: better had it beene for thee, by sitting low, to haue had quiet, then by climbing high to haue fallen into miserie. But alas I feare not mine owne daunger, but Dorastus displeasure. Ah sweete Dorastus, thou art a Prince, but now a prisoner, by too much loue, procuring thine owne losse: haddest thou not loued Fawnia thou haddest bin fortunate, shall I then be false to him that hath forsaken kingdomes for my cause: no, would my death might deliuer him, so mine honour might be preserved. With that fetching a deepe sigh, she ceased from her complaints, and went againe to the Palace, inioyning a liberty without content, and profered pleasure with small ioy. But poore Dorastus lay all this while in close prison, being pinched with a hard restraint, and pained with the burden of colde, and heauy irons, sorrowing sometimes that his sonde affection had procured him this mishap, that by the disobedience of his parents, he had wrought his owne despight: an other while cursing the Gods, and fortune, that they should crosse him with such sinister chance: uttering at last his passions in these words.

Ah infortunate wretch borne to mishappe, now thy follie hath his desert: art thou not worthy for thy base minde to haue had fortune: could the destinies fauour thee, which hast forgot thine honor and dignities: will not the Gods plague him with despight that payneth his father with disobedience. Oh Gods, if any fauour or iustice be left, plague me, but fauour poore Fawnia and shrowd her from the tyrannies of wretched Pandosto, but let my death free her from mishap, & then welcome death: Dorastus payned with these heauie passions, sorrowed and sighed, but in vayne, for which hee vsed the more patience. But againe to Pandosto, who broyling at the heat of vnlawfull lust coulde take no rest but still felt his minde disquieted with

Dorastus and Fawnia.

With his new loue, so that his nobles and subiects maruelled greatly at this sodaine alteration, not being able to coniecture the cause of this his continued care: Pandosto thinking euery houre a yere till he had talked once againe with Fawnia. sent for her secretly into his chamber, whither though Fawnia vnwillingly comming, Pandosto entertained her very courteously vsing these familiar speeches, which Fawnia answered as shortly in this wise.

Pandosto.

Fawnia, are you become lesse wilfull and more wise, to preferre the loue of a king before the liking of a poore knight? I thinke ere this you thinke it is better to be fauoured of a king than of a subiect.

Fawnia.

Pandosto, the body is subiect to victories, but the mind not to be subdued by conquest, honesty is to be preferred before honour, and a dramme of faith weigheth downe a tun of gold. I haue promised Meleagrus to loue, and will performe no lesse.

Pandosto.

Fawnia, I know thou art not so vnwise in thy choice, as to refuse y^e offer of a king, nor so ingratfull as to despise a good turne: thou art now in that place where I may commaund, and yet thou seest I intreate, my power is such as I may compell by force, and yet I sue by prayers: yeeld Fawnia thy loue to him which burneth in thy loue, Meleagrus shall be set free, thy countrymen discharged, and thou both loued and honoured.

Fawnia.

I see Pandosto, where lust ruleth it is a miserable thing to be a virgin, but know this. that I will alwayes preferre fame before life, and rather choose death than dishonour.

Pandosto seeing that there was in Fawnia a determinate courage to loue Meleagrus, and a resolution without feare to hate him fleeing away from her in a rage: swearing if in short time she would not be wonne by reason: he would forget all curtesie, and compell her to grant by rigor: but these threatening words no whit dismayed Fawnia: but that she still both

The Historie of

despighted and despised Pandosto. While thus these two lovers stroue, the one to winne loue, the other to lue in hate: Egistus heard certaine newes by marchants of Bohemia, that his son Dorastus was imprisoned by Pandosto, which made him feare greatly that his sonne should be but hardly intreated: yet considering that Bellaria and he was cleared by the Oracle of Apollo from that crime wherewith Pandosto had vniustly charged them, he thought best to send with all speede to Pandosto, that he should set free his sonne Dorastus, and put to death Fawnia and her father Porrus: finding this by the aduise of counsaile the speediest remedy to release his son, he caused presently two of his ships to be rigged and thoroughly furnished with prouision of men and victuals, and sent diuers of his nobles, embassadors into Bohemia: who willing to obey their king, and receiue their pong prince: made no delayes, for feare of danger, but with as much speed as might be, sailed towards Bohemia: the winde and seas favoured them greatly, which made them hope of some good happe, for within three dayes they were landed: which Pandosto no sooner heard of their arriual, but he in person went to meete them, intreating them with such sumptuous and familiar curtesie, that they might well perceiue how soze hee was for the former iniuries he had offered to their king, and how willing (if it might be) to make amends. As Pandosto made report to them, how one Meleagrus a knight of Trapolonia was lately arriued with a lady called Fawnia in his land, coming very inspitiously, accompanied onely with one seruant, and an old shepheard. The embassadors perceiued by the halfe, what the whole tale meant, & began to coniecture, that it was Dorastus, who for feare to be knownen, had changed his name: but dissembling the matter, they shortly arriued at the court, where after they had bin very solemnely & sumptuously feasted, the noblemen of Sicilia being gathered together, they made report of their embassage: where they certified Pandosto that Meleagrus was sonne and heire to the king Egistus, and that his name was Dorastus: how contrary to the kings minde hee had priuily conueied away that Fawnia, intending to marry her, being but daughter to that poore shepheard

Dorastus and Fawnia.

heard Porrus : whereupon the Kings request was, that Capnio, Fawnia, and Porrus might be murthered and put to death and that his sonne Dorastus might bee sent home in safetie. Pandosto hauing attentiuely and with great maruell heard their Embassage, willing to reconcile himselfe to Egistus, and to shew him how greatly he esteemed his labor: although loue and fancy forbade him to hurt Fawnia, yet in despite of loue he determined to execute Egistus wil without mercy, and therfore he presently sent for Dorastus out of prison, who maruelling at his vnlooked for curtesie, found at his comming to the kings presence, that which he least doubted of, his fathers Embassadors : who no sooner saw him, but with great reuerence they honored him : and Pandosto embracing Dorastus, set him by him very louingly in a chaire of estate. Dorastus ashamed that his folly was bewrayed, sate a long time as one in a muse, till Pandosto told him the summe of his fathers embassage, which he had no sooner heard, but he was toucht at the quicke, for the cruell sentence that was pronounced against Fawnia : but neither could his sorrow nor perswasions preuaile, for Pandosto commaunded that Fawnia, Porrus, and Capnio, shoulde bee brought to his presence : who were no sooner come, but Pandosto hauing his former loue turned to a disdainefull hate, began to rage against Fawnia in these termes.

Thou disdainfull vassall, thou currish kite, assigned by the destinies to base fortune, and yet with an aspiring minde gazing after honor : how durst thou presume, being a beggar, to match with a prince? By thy alluring looks to inchant the sonne of a king, to leaue his owne countrey to fulfill thy disordinate lusts. O dispitfull minde, a proud heart in a beggar is not vnlike to a great fire in a small cottage, which warmeth not the house, but burneth it: assure thy self thou shalt die, and thou olde doating foole, whose folly hath bin such, as to suffer thy daughter to reach aboue thy fortune : looke for no other meede, but the like punishment. But Capnio, thou which hast betrayed the king, and hast consented to the vnlawfull lust of thy lord and master, I knowe not how iustly I may plague thee : death is too easie a punishment for thy falshood, and to

The Historie of

live (if not in extreme miserie) were not to shew thee equitie. I therefore award that thou shalt haue thine eyes put out, and continually till thou diest, grinde in a mill like a brute beast. The feare of death brought a sorrowfull silence vpon Fawnia and Capnio, but Porras seeing no hope of life, burst forth into these speeches.

PAndosto, and yee noble embassadours of Sycilia, seeing without cause I am condemned to die: I am yet glad I haue oportunitie to disburden my conscience before my death: I will tell you as much as I know, and yet no more than is true: whereas I am accused that I haue bin a supporter of Fawnias pride, and she disdained as a vile beggar, so it is that I am neither father vnto her, nor she daughter vnto me.

For so it hapned that I being a poore Sheeherd in Sycilia, liuing by keeping other mens flockes: one of my Sheepe straying downe to the sea side, as I went to seek her, I saw a litle boate driuen vpon the shoare, wherein I found a babe of sixe daies old, wrapped in a mantle of scarlet, hauing about the necke this chaine: I pittying the child, & desirous of the treasure, carried it home to my wife, who with great care nursed it vp, & set it to keepe Sheepe. Here is the chaine & the iewels, and this Fawnia is the child whom I found in the boat, what she is, or of what parentage I know not, but this I am assured of, that she is none of mine.

Pandosto would scarce suffer him to tell out his tale, but that he reuoluted the time of the yeere, the manner of the boat, and other circumstances, which when he found agreeing to his count, he suddenly leapt from his seate, and kissed Fawnia, wiping her tender cheeks with his tears, & crying my daughter Fawnia, ah sweete Fawnia, I am thy father Fawnia. This sodaine passion of the king draue them all into a maze, especially Fawnia and Dorastus. But when the king had breathed himselfe a while in this new ioy, he rehearsed before the Embassadours the whole matter, how hee had intreated his wife Bellaria for icalousie, and that this was the child whome hee sent to float in the seas.

Fawnia was not more ioyfull that she had found such a father,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

ther, then Dorastus was glad he should get such a wife. The Embassadors reioyced that their yong Prince had made such a choice, that those Kingdoms which through enmitie had long time bene disscuered, should now through perpetuall amitie be vnited and reconciled. The Citizens and subiects of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found againe his daughter, which was supposed dead, ioyfull that there was an heire apparent to their kingdom) made bonfires and shotes throughout the Citie: The Courtiers and Knights appointed Justes and Turneyes, to signifie their willing minds in gratifying the Kings hap.

Eightene dayes being past in these princely sports, Pandosto willing to recompence old Perus, of a shepheard made him a Knight: which done, prouiding a sufficient shauie to receiue him and his retinue, accompanied with Dorastus, Fawnia, and the Sicilian Embassadors, he sailed towards Sicilia, where he was most princely entertained by Egistus: who hearing this comicall euent, reioyced greatly at his sonnes good hap, and without delay (to the perpetuall ioy of the two yong louers) celebated the marriage: which was no sooner ended, but Pandosto calling to mind how first he betrayed his friend Egistus, how his iealousie was the cause of Bellarias death, that contrarie to the lawe of nature he had lusted after his owne daughter) moued with these desperat thoughts, he fell in a melancholic fit, and to close vp the Comedie with a Tragical Stratagem, he slue him selfe, whose death being many dayes bewailed of Fawnia, Dorastus, and his deere friend Egistus. Dorastus taking his leaue of his father, went with his wife and the dead corps into Bohemia, where after they were sumptuously intembred, Dorastus ended his dayes in contented quiet.

FINIS.